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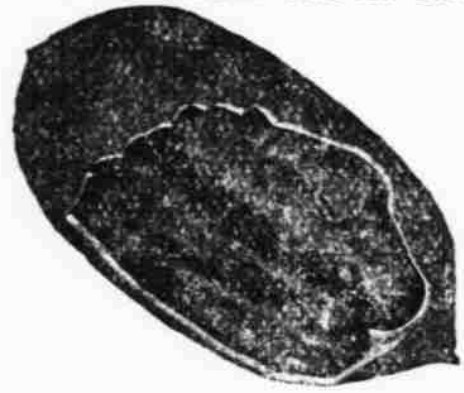
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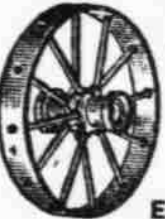
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**The Board of Agriculture and the  
A. & M. College.**

Messrs. Editors: The Legislature of 1901 made the North Carolina Board of Agriculture a board of trustees for the A. & M. College and placed the institution under its management. Governor Aycock (whose administration will stand in the most beneficial work, especially as to education, with that of any which has preceded or shall follow it) stated to the Board that this had been done with the intention of developing the agricultural side of the College. There were not a dozen students taking this course. The graduates in agriculture had not averaged one a year since the foundation of the College. He did not know what was the matter, he said, and if the Board composed of farmers did not find a remedy, they could blame no one else.

It had been said that the State was too poor to be an agricultural State in competition with other sections and must turn its attention to manufacturing, in which it could compete with any portion of the Nation. The graduating speech of one of the students at the commencement when the Board assumed control was along this line. While giving proper attention to all other departments of College (and the advance which they have made is evidence of the care bestowed), the Board gave especial attention to agriculture. Teachers of the highest order were sought for and employed. Agricultural education was especially advertised. Short courses for those not able to attend a full course were introduced to be held at the time which could best be spared from active farm work. Appropriation was made to pay for labor by students in agriculture who might wish to use their labor to help defray expense of college course.

The students came. The dozen or so have increased to one hundred and thirty, or more than one-fourth of the entire number. While buildings and rooms had been erected for other branches of instruction there were no suitable apartment for the farmer. Although the instructors were in their positions the equal of those in any institution in the Union, the accommodations and appliances for instruction were not adequate to the requirements.

A suitable building was needed. The Legislature was petitioned to make the appropriation for it, as had been done for the other buildings. This was refused. The Board then petitioned to be allowed to erect the Agricultural Building with the farmers' tax, received from sale of fertilizers. This was allowed in an act unique in its character, which strictly forbade the use of the credit of the State to the enterprise, and limited it solely to receipts of Department of Agriculture.

In order that the building might be of the highest order of efficiency, a committee was sent by the Board to visit several of the best equipped buildings at similar colleges. The interior was arranged by the Board and the professors of the College in the Agricultural Department, an architect was employed to enclose it, and the building let to contract. There is nothing approaching it in the South, and none, when cost of construction is considered, surpassing it in the Union.

This building has not been erected by the State, but by taxes paid only by those interested in farming. Thus we see that the Board of Agriculture can, without much exaggeration, be said to have instituted agricultural education in this institution, and the confidence of Governor Aycock was not surpassed when he entrusted it to their care.

As the manufacturers of various styles or patents have furnished free

as advertisements the machinery of their make to an amount sufficient to equip a large portion of the Textile Building, so have manufacturers of agricultural machinery offered to donate machines for the hall of machinery. This will enable the students to become familiar with the different kinds of agricultural machinery, and during Fair Week farmers visiting the Fair can learn of the most desirable patents for the especial use, or the remedies for impediments which they have found for those they have. This was one reason for placing the building convenient to access from the Fair grounds.

When the Legislature of 1903 refused to make appropriation for the Agricultural Building, and put the burden upon the fertilizer tax, it also compelled the Board to appropriate \$10,000 per annum to the current expenses of the college, i. e., to pay for the education of the artisans, electricians, and engineers, etc., who compose nearly three-fourths of the students. This, of course, interfered with the proper work of the Board by reducing the amount available for its purposes. Governor Aycock, seeing the injustice of this, recommended to the present Legislature the repeal of the act. This was done, the repealing bill passing the House without opposition, though fought in the Senate with considerable vigor.

I desire to call especial attention to acts of this nature, i. e., to divert any portion of this tax—the fertilizer tax paid only by farmers—to purposes other than as related to the farmer; or that after the farmer has paid his taxes to the general or special purposes of the State, he shall be required to furnish by a special tax a special contribution for purposes in which he has no interest beyond that of the average citizen. I hope the farmers will see that those whom they elect as representatives in the Legislature shall be men who will not thus impose unfair and unjust burdens upon them.

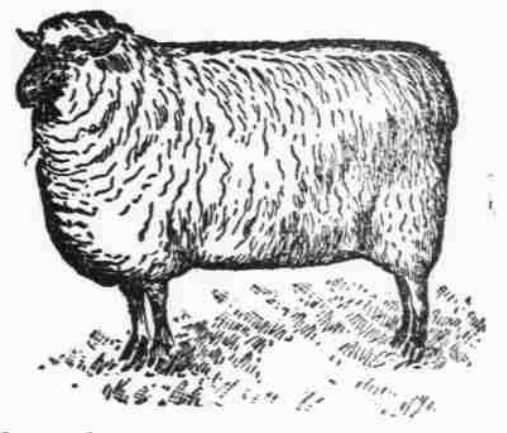
I have thus endeavored to show the work of the Board of Agriculture. Farmers, I regret to say, are ever ready to hear and heed criticism adverse to their brethren, and, as a class, they have thus been induced to aid in bringing injustice upon themselves and to hinder the efforts of their brethren along lines for their betterment. These things ought not so to be. I earnestly urge that each reader individually give the work of the Board, whether on legitimate work in their line or special work in connection with the A. & M. College, careful attention and support and encourage all measures you may approve. And when you may differ, give them the benefit of your advice, remembering that perhaps you, and not they, are mistaken.

North Carolina has now a Board of Agriculture the equal in aggressiveness and efficiency to that of any State. If you will acquaint yourselves with its work, give it the benefit of suggestions that occur to you in regard to it, and an unwavering support in all measures which merit it, its labors will indeed be a blessing to the farmers, and thus to the entire State.

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